

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 10, 2005. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner forward to the undersigned an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 corresponding to the IDS filed December 28, 2001. Applicant has not yet received this from the USPTO.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Matsuzaki. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a “managing method for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units through an ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, comprising the steps of: causing said ordering apparatus to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule; causing said composite apparatus to recognize unit information for specifying units to be composed itself and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule; and comparing the composite state information created by said ordering apparatus and the composite state information created by said composite apparatus.” The cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1.

Matsuzaki (US 5,357,439) relates to a system for ordering a “toy plane” (col. 9, line 54). While it may be argued that the “toy plane” of Matsuzaki could be a “composite apparatus” made up of a composition of units such as wings, tail, and cockpit, the composite apparatus (toy

plane) of Matsuzaki certainly does not “recognize unit information for specifying units to be composed itself and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information” and also does not create composite state information as required by claim 1. Matsuzaki is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in these respects. Thus, claim 1 patentably defines over Matsuzaki.

Claim 2 also clearly defines over Matsuzaki. For example, the toy plane (alleged composite apparatus) of Matsuzaki does not include “means for recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself; and second creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule” as called for in claim 2.

Claim 6 also clearly defines over Matsuzaki. For example, the toy plane (alleged composite apparatus) of Matsuzaki does not include “means for recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed; means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and means for outputting the created composite state information to exterior” as called for in claim 6.

Claim 7 requires “means for, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the composite apparatus information stored by said storing means, comparing received composite state information and the composite state information stored in said storing means.” Matsuzaki fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 7.

Claim 8 requires “causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus

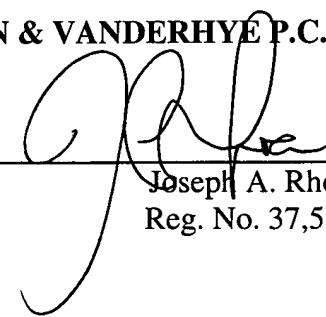
specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.” Again, Matsuzaki fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 8.

Claim 9 requires “computer readable code means for causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.” Again, Matsuzaki fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 9.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100